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Various newspapers in China and New York give the following data on the development and completion of land reform.

Land reform is reported completed in 8,500 hsiangs of Central and South China. It is scheduled to be completed in Hainan by the end of the summer of 1952.

From East, Southwest, and Northwest China come reports of land-reform progress with its attendant heightening of patriotic spirit among the peasants benefited.

Taihoku reports, based on mainland information, indicate much trouble in carrying out land reform in Kwangtung. In some areas, people with as little as 5 mou (one mou equals 1/6 acre) of land are said to be classified as landlords.

GIVES IDEAS FOR LAND-REFORM CLASSIFICATION -- Hankow, Chiang-chiang Jih-pao, 12 Mar 51

The following article, written by Chang Ken-sheng, gives his ideas for a successful completion of classification of landlords and farmers prior to the distribution of land under the land reform program.

Successful completion of the classification phase of land reform depends on the following essential steps:

1. Careful explanation to the people (poor farmers and hired farmers) concerning the lines of demarcation between landlords, wealthy farmers, middle-class farmers, poor farmers, and hired farmers, putting the burden of determining the classification of every farmer in the locality squarely on the people themselves. Use should be made of the various local organizations such as the Peasants Delegates Meeting, Peasants Association Committee Meeting, mass meetings, small-group meetings, wall newspapers, and night schools as forums for educating the people on the subject of classification. It should be clearly set forth that the object of classification is to distinguish the friends of the people from their enemies.

2. Classification should be on the ts'un level, rather than the hsiang level. It should begin with the landlord class and proceed to the other classes named above, in that order.

In deciding on the landlord and wealthy peasant classifications, agreement should first be secured in the inner circles of the Peasants Association and the Ts'un Delegates Meeting. After decisions have been made in these bodies, a mass meeting of the ts'un residents should be called. The landlords should be required to be present at the meeting and be given a chance to acknowledge their landlord status. They should then be confronted by the accusations of the people concerning their oppression and duplicity. This process of accusation should be kept up until the landlords acknowledge their guilt. They should then be dealt with according to reason and the law. If a landlord is cantankerous, he must be confronted with accusations till he gives in. If he talks reasonably, it must be considered that he is trying to conceal something, such as unregistered land or hidden grain or equipment. Accusation and questioning must be continued until these items are acknowledged. In every instance, before his case can be settled, it must be shown that the landlord is the enemy of the people.

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When dealing with middle-class and poor farmers, the classification should be kept simple. Generally speaking, the above two classes, along with the hired farmers, should be considered a sufficient number of categories. Members of each class may simply make an honest declaration for themselves of their class before the agricultural people's small-group meeting. After these classifications are decided on, the results, together with the classification of the landlords and wealthy farmers, should be passed upon by the ts'un Delegates Meeting (or the Peasants Association Committee) and a preliminary list posted. Thereafter, a mass meeting of the ts'un residents should be convened to consider the list and offer suggestions or objections.

3. After the review by the above-mentioned groups, the suggested revisions should be presented to the Hsiang Delegates Meeting for consideration and approval. This second list is then to be presented again to the people to secure their opinions. After the second list has been agreed on, steps for expropriation and confiscation may be undertaken.

4. After the revised list has been passed by the hsiang authorities, it should be reported to the chu authorities, who should appoint special persons to study the report, with special emphasis on the list of landlords and wealthy farmers, to see that no landlords have escaped listing or have been listed in error, and that no wealthy farmers have been elevated out of their class. Care should be taken to see whether any poor farmers or renters have been elevated to middle-class farmer status. Following this examination and approval, the third listing may be publicized, the policy toward landlords proclaimed, and landlords exhorted to obey the law and deliver up their property.

5. Five or six out of every ten landlords will state that there are farm laborers in their families. Hence they should be considered wealthy farmers instead of landlords. Investigation will usually reveal that the so-called farm laborers are either servant girls or secondary wives who are being exploited. For purposes of a more favorable classification, these individuals should not be recognized as representing family labor.

6. Point to be guarded against in classification are:

a. Peasant inertia and too great readiness on the part of the people to cease the struggle against the landlords and accept a peaceful settlement before full results have been attained. If the landlords sense such an attitude on the part of the people, they will exploit it to the fullest possible extent to their own advantage.

b. The tendency of some cadres and progressive elements is to raise classifications above their proper level to increase the number of so-called landlords so that there will be more land to be divided. Mistakes here result in much discord and loss in the final outcome. The chief distinction between landlords and wealthy farmers is whether or not they work on their land.

c. In a few areas, the land-reform cadres have shown a disposition to carry out the whole program of classification, from start to finish, themselves. Such a program vitiates the idea of arousing the masses to a high degree of political consciousness.

d. In some cases, the cadres oversimplify the classification process in another way by merely asking the people whether such and such a person is or is not a landlord. When the people shout that he is a landlord, that ends the matter and he is so classified. This allows no opportunity for the exchange of arguments between people and landlord whereby the oppression and crimes of the landlord can be brought out. Hence, if the landlord makes an appeal to higher authorities against the decision, much evidence against him that should have been brought out by popular accusation will be lacking.

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OUTLINES PRINCIPLES GOVERNING DISTRIBUTION OF LAND, MOVABLE PROPERTY -- Hankow,
Hupei Jih-pao, 9 Mar 50

The Land-Reform Committee of the Yen-yang Special Administrative District in Hupei has issued the following principles of procedure to govern the actual distribution of land and movable property.

A. General Preparation

Before the general discussion of distribution is held, the presidium of the poor and hired farmers organizations should discuss and estimate the amount of land to be expropriated or confiscated from landlords, and the amount of land already being cultivated by middle-class farmers, renters, and poor and hired farmers. This will be the total amount of land to be distributed. This acreage divided by the number of persons included in the hired-farmer, poor-farmer, renter, and middle-farmer classes and the landlord class will give the approximate amount to be distributed to each eligible individual. This estimate should be presented to the poor and hired farmers delegates meeting.

1. Principles of Land Distribution

During the determination of land-distribution principles in delegates meetings, poor and hired farmers shall have first claim. The methods to be followed include:

- a. The administrative team is the basic unit.
- b. The distribution shall be first to the landless, second to those with only a little property. These groups will cover the majority of claimants.
- c. The distribution should take into account the distance of land distributed from the present holdings of recipients, and the quality, as related to present holdings.
- d. The distribution of movable property shall be determined by its usefulness to production.
- e. The distribution shall be regulated by the principle of just claims and democratic discussion.

The delegates meeting shall decide the approximate distribution and pass on it. Small-group meetings will then discuss and revise the plan. This phase is basic to equitable distribution and will eliminate much argument later. The position of leadership of the poor and hired farmers must be maintained. The rest will be easy. After the small groups finish their revision, the results should be presented to meetings of peasants for their general agreement and approval.

2. Questions to Be Settled in Peasants Delegates Meeting

- a. General principles shall be discussed and passed on, and the delegates session should be convinced of the rightness and necessity of satisfying the demands of the poor and hired farmers.
- b. The question of expropriating surplus ground and movable property of renters is a thorny one. If not well managed, it can become a cause of dissension among peasants and give landlords a chance to disrupt the program. This difficulty may be avoided by explaining that (1) the renters can realize more income than previously from less land, since they will have no rent to pay; (2) that the combination of middle-class farmers with the poor and hired farmers is the only way successfully to combat the landlords; (3) that better cultivation methods will yield a larger income from less land; (4) that the renters will be

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given special consideration, including the opportunity to rent desirable pieces of land and certain results in renting public land. In most cases, such arguments and assurances will dispel questions from the minds of this class.

c. Equitable distribution requires complete reports on all land and its productivity. Peasants must realize that confiscation must be reasonable and legal, and distribution must follow the same principle to ensure high production and family prosperity.

Following the Peasants' Delegates Meeting, small group meetings of the Peasants Association shall assemble to report assets, the surveying of the land, and confirmation of decisions of the delegates meeting. Distribution may proceed after (1) the list of those to receive land has been made up by families, (2) dissenting renters have appeared before the small groups of the Peasants Association, and are convinced of the correctness of the decisions, and (3) all hidden land has been reported.

B. Actual Distribution Procedure

The distribution process is complicated and involves many interlocking problems. It cannot be carried out by fiat or other undemocratic procedures. If the people are allowed free discussion, they will always be able to work out the problems.

C. Land Distribution Methods

1. The land confiscated from landlords and all land cultivated by renters and poor and hired farmers, less one percent reserved for public lands, shall be divided by the number of persons to receive land, to obtain the amount of the individual grant.

a. Amounts to be distributed can only be approximate, a small fraction of a mou more or less for some cannot be avoided because of the lay of the land, etc.

b. Convenience, i.e. distance of new holdings from old holdings should also be considered.

c. In the distribution of buildings and equipment, attention should be paid to town groupings.

2. In the distribution of buildings, the needs of the poor and hired farmers should be satisfied first. Under special conditions, buildings and grounds may be given to middle-class farmers who have no buildings. Rice paddies and vegetable gardens should be distributed with the buildings to which they are attached.

D. Distribution of Movable Property

1. Basic Principle

The basic principle in the distribution of movable property is distribution according to need in the interests of production. Four general classes of movable property may be recognized.

a. Hoes, pickaxes, and shovels should be given first to all those lacking the means to purchase them. If their number is insufficient, implements of equal value may be substituted.

b. Work animals and plows should be distributed to families of poor and hired farmers on the basis of a maximum of one animal and plow to each three families.

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c. Grain should be distributed to those having none or those with but little, with special regard for widows and orphans, in order to tide them over the spring shortage. If grain is insufficient, equipment may be distributed instead of it.

d. The most important articles of furniture are cooking kettles and porcelain firkins. Tables, chairs, and chests are of secondary importance.

2. Problems

Problems relating to distribution of movable property include the following:

a. Inconsequential articles should be distributed to the middle-class peasants so that they will not feel entirely isolated.

b. In distribution, the small-group meetings should compare equipment and food grain and not consider poverty or the difficult conditions of the recipients altogether as a criterion of distribution. Least poverty erroneously come to be considered a glory.

c. Care must be taken to avoid following the desire of the poor and hired farmers for a strictly equal division. Those who have must take thought for those who have none. Equity, rather than equality, should be the governing principle. Newly established families should have special consideration.

d. Cadres should be shown no favoritism in quantity or quality of goods distributed to them, and no collection may be permitted.

e. Famous relics and historically important literary works should be preserved as public property.

In carrying out the above suggestions, the main emphasis should be on general principles rather than slavish attention to details.

8,500 HSIANGS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH CHINA COMPLETE LAND REFORM -- Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 8 Apr 51

Over 8,500 hsiangs in the six provinces of Central and South China have completed land reform and the program is progressing in more than 10,000 other hsiangs. In the area where the program has been completed, 1,400,000 landless or practically landless peasants have each received land with an annual productive capacity of 700 catties of grain (1 catty equals 1.333 pounds).

HAINAN BEGINS LAND REFORM -- Hankow, Chiang-shiang Jih-pao, 22 Mar 51

During February, a Hainan Land-Reform Committee was set up on Hainan Island by order of the Central and South China Military and Administrative Committee. The committee will carry out land reform on the island in three stages covering two summers, 1951-52, and the intervening winter. Activity will start with organization of the poor and hired farmers, rent reduction, and rent deposit refunds. The first area of operations will be the eastern part of Ch'iung-shan Hsien. It is hoped that the program will be completed by the autumn of 1952.

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LAND REFORM PROCEEDING IN CHINA - New York, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 11 Mar 51

Land-reform activities are progressing in 27 hsiangs in Shanghai suburban areas. The reform movement has reached the stage of property distribution in four hsiangs. In other areas of South Kiangsu, property distribution has been completed in 114 hsiangs.

In the Shao-ching Special Administrative District, it is planned to complete the land-reform program by the end of April.

LAND REFORM NEARLY COMPLETED IN CHEKIANG - New York, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 24 May 51

Shanghai, 16 May - The land-reform program has been completed and the success of the people's democratic dictatorship assured in 4,651 out of the 5,300 hsiangs in Chekiang Province. The completion of the total program has been postponed until after the spring planting season.

LAND REFORM MEANS NEW LIFE IN FUKIEN - Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 20 Apr 51

Foochow (Kuo-chin Shai) - In five hsiangs of Fukien, land reform is completed or in the process of completion. In two others, it is 90 percent complete. Already, 500,249.48 mou of land, 14,754 room-units of buildings, large quantities of grain, work animals, and farm equipment have been distributed to the landless and nearly landless poor and hired farmers. In 104 hsiangs of two hsiangs, 141,248 poor and hired farmers, who prior to land reform averaged only 0.34 mou of land per person, now possess 1.24 mou each.

A great elevation of morale and patriotism has resulted from the implementation of land reform so far attained in Fukien Province.

SOUTHWEST BEGINS LAND REFORM - Hsukow, Chung-hsing Jih-pao, 21 Mar 51

Since February, some 41 hsiangs in various southwestern provinces and the suburbs of three municipalities have been carrying out the land-reform program.

LAND-REFORM CADRES REACH CHUNGKING - New York, Hsin-wen Jih-pao, 26 May 51

Peiping, 19 May (Hsin-hua) - A land-reform cadre of 99 persons, under the chairmanship Chang Nai-ch'i (常乃器), convener of the standing committee of the Democratic Reconstruction Society, left on a People's Airlines plane for Chungking to lead the land reform in the Southwest. The cadres include: central committee members and high-ranking members of various democratic parties, scientific workers, college teachers, cultural workers, industrial and commercial representatives, and religious workers.

LAND REFORM COMPLETED IN NING-HSUO, SHENSI - Sian, Ch'un-chung Jih-pao, 25 Mar 51

Land-reform activities have been completed in Ning-hsuo Hsien in Shensi Province. Over 31,300 mou of land, 1,512 work animals, 4,854 agricultural implements, 356 heavy farm carts, and 7,000 shih of surplus grain were confiscated or expropriated and distributed among the poor and hired farmers. The Moslem farmers were as eager for the program as the Han [Chinese] farmers, and the result has been closer cooperation between the two groups. The farmers throughout the hsien, who have benefited by the program, are enthusiastically making preparation for spring planting.

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SAYS LAND REFORM DIFFICULT IN KWANGTUNG -- New York, Min-ch'ao Jih-pao, 22 May 51

According to a Tainoku broadcast based on information from Hong Kong, the Chinese Communist land-reform program in Kwangtung has met with violent resistance from both landlords and cultivators. Despite liquidations and other severe measures, very slow progress is being made. A great many land-reform cadres have been assassinated. So far the program has been reported completed in only 11 of the 99 hsien of Kwangtung.

CLASSIFIES OWNERS OF 5 MOU AS LANDLORDS -- New York, Min-ch'ao Jih-pao, 22 May 51

Correspondence from Nan-sha, Heien in Kwangtung Province states that owners of only 5 mou of land in that hsien are being classed as landlords and their land is subject to confiscation. Owners of 10 or more mou are classed as rich landlords and their buildings and movable property, as well as land, are subject to confiscation.

KWANGTUNG CADRE CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES SHORTCOMINGS -- New York, Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 26 May 51

Canton, 19 May (Hsin-hua) -- At a conference of cadres of the South China Bureau of the CCP Central Committee it was recognized that thus far in Kwangtung Province it had not been possible to arouse the great masses of the peasants to a revolutionary fervor against the feudalistic system and the landlords. The complications of the situation in the province had overwhelmed cadres to the point where they failed to sense the hardships of the people, thus delaying progress in the struggle.

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